

Notes taken at the *Parish Meeting* – West Hagbourne

held at Broomsticks on *Saturday 21st May 2005*

The meeting was attended by 24 parishioners plus four Parish Councillors and District + County Councillor.

Phil Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the reports which are attached to these minutes, and asked if the meeting wanted to continue the format from last year which was an unstructured forum, and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of this.

Patrick Greene introduced his report, announced his re-election result and told the meeting of his new position as Chairman of SODC. He was asked by the Chair to confine this to the points relevant to the Parish, as worthy successes elsewhere were of little interest to the meeting.

There was considerable discussion over exactly what the Didcot Integrated Transport Study was going to do for the village, and exactly when something, if anything, was going to be done. Phil Taylor repeated the recommendations that DITS had adopted, and affirmed that this could be indeed years before it is implemented. PG suggested that there were other ways of achieving small wins, such as the 'white lines' at Green Thatch, and he again asked to be kept in the loop on communications requesting works to be done.

Gill Wing questioned why on the doorsteps PG had said vote for me and I'll get your potholes fixed, and they were still there. PG repeated he would action a request for this to be done with highways, and asked the Parish Council to advise him of any other specific items that needed looking at.

Speed down Main Street and toward the Horse & Harrow is still of great and growing concern, and PG suggested he would ask Lee Turner in OCC Highways if it was possible to get a speed check monitoring session so that there was some evidence that could be used to help the case for some interim traffic calming measures. A roundabout at the Horse & Harrow was requested, the gates originally promised, which were a cheap and quick fix, effective chicanes at the village entrances, 30mph signs to be more prominent, better signing for large vehicles, the effects of humps and re-positioning the 30mph zone back to Coscote.

PT reported that Thames Valley police were going to make the village the subject of a measured scheme, to determine whether this could help support our claim for a more effective traffic policy.

The dangers of the Buses parking at the end of Moor Lane was covered, and this led into a conversation about the retrospective planning application at Thatch Cottage. The general consensus of the meeting was that whilst they welcomed the business to the village, the location was not appropriate. Several villagers do use the pet grooming service, but the noise from the dogs had been a considerable inconvenience to neighbours on all sides. As had the parking and turning, which on occasions had proved a real problem, and was likely to be the cause of an accident as vehicle movements in and out of the lane were more frequent, and other road users would not expect to find a car emerging or entering the lane, yet finding itself stopped half way in or out, as had happened the previous week.

Phil Taylor asked if additional parking was provided by piping in part of the ditch, down Moor Lane, would solve the problem, the view was that it would not stop the dogs and noise, or the vehicle movements.

The condition of Hagbourne Hill was again pointed out to PG, as was the condition of the road surface dressing which was so poorly done in 2004, and had not yet been rectified, despite assurances that it would be done in the spring.

The Western Area planning team had asked the Chair to relay the views of the meeting to him over the planning application and this will be done separately and with a copy of these minutes.

PG was asked by the Chair to explain why he felt it right that OCC should favour the SEERA proposals for more housing to come to Didcot – rather than around Oxford. PG was harassed for some time over the impact this would have on West Hagbourne, the lack of infrastructure, the impact on sustainability, the travel and traffic movement increases and the location of the workplace destinations of ‘new’ population.

The Meeting discussed why SODC had not re-instated the green waste collections which those attending found so useful. The Parish Council was questioned over why it had not implemented sacks and collections as discussed last year. Phil Taylor pointed out that the costs were outlined in the newsletter but that no single reply was received, over what they should do. It was pointed out that Jeff Powell would happily host a skip four times a year, and PT asked the meeting if it would stomach the increase in the Council Tax precept to cover these costs. It was the overwhelming view that YES they would. PT said that this would be applied to our next budget, and that one skip would be made available out of reserve funds, and dates posted in the newsletter. First one to be in late June, to be ahead of Summer, and other points in time to be decided.

PG advised the meeting that SODC had decided to ‘sell’ clear sacks that could be used specifically for Green Waste, and these would be collected on a ‘requested’ basis. This is all being driven by government targets for recycling and reducing landfill – which is where much green waste is currently being diverted to.

The condition and emptying of the litter bins was raised, Phil Taylor pointed out that he believed they were due for updating, and would have the clerk check the frequency of the emptying.

The progress at the Toll Garden opposite the Horse & Harrow was explained by Phil Taylor and he was awaiting reactions from contractors to clear the site. The PC had set an initial budget for the works.

The Post Box – it was requested that the PC ask for something that confirms collection times, and if it was possible to get a period box could this be requested, as the current one is within the conservation area. The times will be obtained and included in the newsletter.

One issue not covered (omitted in error) was the state of the gullies and side drains that clear into the pond. This matter will be brought to the attention of the Highways Agency.

Phil Taylor had been asked by - Mr Allen of York Farm - to point out to residents whose gardens backed onto his fields, that they must not dump garden waste into the field. One cow had already died in 2004 as a result of this and it was very important that the practice was stopped.

The Chair thanked the Village Association for providing the tent in which the event was held and to Patrick Greene for attending and for answering so many questions.

The meeting made it clear that they liked the arrangement and would like to see it continue next year.